

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4369
ANSWERED ON:24.04.2008
INDIAN MUSEUM
Gandhi Smt. Maneka

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the money that has been siphoned off from the Indian Museum in West Bengal on the pretext of renovation;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to punish the officials involved and to verify the disappeared artifacts?

Answer

MINISTER FOR TOURISM & CULTURE(SMT. AMBIKA SONI)

(a) to (b) Indian Museum is an autonomous institution under the Ministry of Culture established under an Act of Parliament. The Office of Principal Director of Audit (Central) Kolkata, undertook Transaction Audit of Indian Museum, Kolkata during May-June, 2007 and pointed out certain irregularities. Indian Museum has entrusted the matter to the CBI for further investigation.

(c) Three officers of Indian Museum have been placed under suspension. A physical verification committee has been constituted by the Indian Museum to verify the objects.